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Applicant(s): Johannes Heichler, et al.
Serial No.: To Be Assigned
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Filed: Herewith
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Examiner: To Be Assigned
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner:-----

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b,) Applicants and their legal representatives hereby make of record on the attached PTO Form-1449 the enclosed publications which were cited in a counterpart foreign application and considered warranting disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Copies of each of these publications are enclosed, including a copy of the corresponding Search Report.

It is respectfully requested that the information disclosed herein be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and that the publications be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. In this regard, it is requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 with the next Patent Office Communication.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not

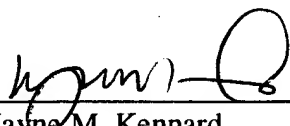
exist. It is understood that the Examiner will conduct an independent search of the prior art.

Furthermore, this submission does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material to patentability or that the listed documents are prior art. If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Officer the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this statement. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 6, 2000



Wayne M. Kennard
Registration No. 30,271

Hale and Dorr LLP
60 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
Tel: (617) 526-6183
Fax: (617) 526-5000